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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2015

## Cops: progress made on east side

Niagara Regional Police say slowly, but surely, drug-related problems are being cleaned up in the East Village  
Page 3

## Canalside play luring theatregoers

A new Norm Foster stage play, a fish-out-of-water tale, is being used to bait audiences in Welland  
Page 26

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## Demanding a poverty-free Canada



Port Colborne Bridges Community Health Centre took part in ChewOnThis! last Tuesday. The campaign calls for a national action plan on poverty and hunger in Canada. A table was set up in the foyer of the centre with flyers and brochures about the campaign and the call to use #WeNeedAPlan and #ChewOnThis across social media platforms. Almost 900,000 people across Canada rely on food banks every month. Lori Kleinsmith, health promoter at Bridges Community Health Centre, talked about the importance of people voting in the upcoming election. She said voting and having a voice will help the campaign move forward. For more information visit [www.chewonthis.ca](http://www.chewonthis.ca).

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# UPFRONT

■ **CRIME:** Two Niagara Regional Police officers, Fenwick man shot in hail of bullets

## 'I've been shot,' cop yells

GREG FURMINGER  
Postmedia Network

Two Niagara Regional Police officers shot Saturday night while responding to a report of a suicidal man at a Fenwick apartment building are expected make full recoveries.

One man was also shot in the incident that unfolded at Canboro Gardens at the corner of Balfour Street at 704 Canboro Rd.

His condition was unknown Monday. His name had not been made public as of the Pelham News press deadline Monday.

"Very happy 2 advise that both of our @NagRegPolice officers injured last night will make a full recovery. #HappyThanksgiving," Chief Jeff McGuire tweeted Sunday morning.

Const. Neal Ridley, an eight-year member of the force and recipient of awards in 2013 and 2014 for his commitment to



NEAL RIDLEY

safer communities through his role as a school resource officer was shot and is recovering at home with his family, police said in a news release issued just before 4 p.m. Sunday.

Const. Jake Braun, a five-year member of the force and recipient of the Ontario Police College student of the year award (2011), was also shot and recovering at home with his family.

Both officers are assigned to the same platoon and work out of the Welland detachment.

Chief McGuire had an opportunity to meet with the officers and their families. "I am incredibly proud of the courage and professionalism of these officers as well as everyone else who had a part to play in the event and the follow up," McGuire said



GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

A Niagara Regional Police officer is loaded into an ambulance after being shot at a Fenwick apartment building Saturday night. A second officer was also shot and a third man was shot in the apartment building.

In the release.

"Included in this group are the rest of the responding officers, our dispatchers, the crisis team our emergency services partners and the medical staff.

"The officers and their families, along with the members of the Niagara Regional Police Service would like to thank the public and many partner agencies that have sent best wishes and support for our officers."

Pelham firefighters were dispatched to the apartment building at 7:42 p.m. Saturday to assist police and were advised the man was inside an apartment with firearms and ammunition nitrate.

While inside the apartment complex, a male exited

his room and shot at officers, injuring two, police said in Sunday's release.

His name has not been released and, as of Monday the chief said, no charges have been laid.

The Tribune arrived on the scene just past 8 p.m. Saturday before everything unfolded. An officer parked about a block west at Lampman Funeral Home said additional police were being called in to close nearby roads.

About 15 minutes later, from the corner of Balfour and Canboro to the east, the Tribune heard multiple gunshot sounds coming from inside the apartment building.

One officer was seen running into the middle of Canboro Road where he dropped

to his knees.

"I've been shot!" he was heard yelling. "I've been shot!"

"He's ours!" called one of the emergency responders on scene.

"I've been shot in the shoulder!" the officer yelled.

Moments later more gunshots could be heard. Not long after several police cruisers, detectives and emergency task unit vehicles converged at the one-time Pelham High School building.

SIU officers overheard talking indicated the injured suspect at one point was in a hallway.

Welland Staff Sgt. Joe Picton, speaking by phone, confirmed just before 10:30 p.m. Saturday that two officers

were shot and that the suspect had also been shot.

"I don't know if it's self-inflicted at this point. He's gone to hospital," Picton said of the suspect.

The two officers were also taken to nearby hospital via ambulance.

Residents of the building Sunday identified the man suffering at least one gunshot wound as a 29-year-old who was a known collector of registered firearms. Police will not confirm his identity.

The man is a resident of the top floor of the building, that remains sectioned by old school fire doors.

Dozens of prayers and well wishes for the injured officers and their families were posted on Facebook and Twit-

ter, including from residents, other police forces and paramedics and firefighters.

McGuire just more than an hour after the incident Saturday night tweeted out the following statement: "Thanks to everyone for their thoughts and prayers as we deal with 2 @NagRegPolice officers injured on duty in Welland (division) tonight."

Police said that the officer shot in the shoulder was struck in two other places and that the other was shot in the foot. Niagara police Saturday night said the officer who sustained multiple wounds was undergoing surgery.

Prior to the shootings, the quiet Pelham village seemed like a typical cool fall night.

One man who was among several people who slowly emerged from their homes after the shootings and watched from the corner of Balfour and Canboro remarked that his family was inside preparing for the next day's Thanksgiving dinner.

Only tenants in an area of the top floor of the apartment building where the shootings happened had been evacuated, residents said.

The province's Special Investigations Unit, which investigates police incidents involving injuries to officers and civilians, its mandate.

An SIU van and trailer pulled into the crime scene at 11:50 p.m. An SIU presence was notably absent Sunday morning.

The SIU said in a release that it has assigned six investigators and three forensic investigators to this case.

Anyone who may have information regarding this incident is asked to contact the SIU at 416-622-0748 or 1-800-877-4529 ext. 2290.

greg.furminger@sunmedia.ca  
Follow @GregAtTheTrb



## ■ PORT COLBORNE

## NRP sees East Village progress

FRANKI DESMAN  
Postmedia Network

Police say they're making progress in tackling some of the issues that have plagued Port Colborne's East Village.

Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Chris Healey said officers have seen an increase in calls for service to that part of the city this year over last year, and another small increase in September compared to August.

"It's a modest increase, but certainly something we're cognizant of," Healey said.

Residents of the eastside neighbourhood have been critical of police, saying they don't seem to be in control of issues like drug sales, crime and violence there.

Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais brought a list of neighbours' concerns to council Sept. 28 and put forward a motion to create an East Village Neighbourhood Improvement Task Force.

Her list of concerns included an increase in drug dealing, a crystal methamphetamine lab in the community, people living in sub-standard housing and violence, including a street fight where hammers were used as weapons.

Healey met with Desmarais and the head of the drug unit at NRPS 3 District out of Welland,

which covers Port Colborne. He said police have stepped up their visibility in the area in response to the concerns raised.

He said bringing residents together for the task force will be helpful to police in resolving some of the issues raised.

"That really provides us that community assistance that puts us in the right direction to help them address those issues," Healey said.

Many residents of East Village spoke about frustrations over a "known drug house" in the community, and questioned why police hadn't taken action on that address.

Jennie — who asked to not have her last name printed for safety reasons — says she lives on the east side of the city, not in East Village itself. Jennie said she has seen many similar issues in her neighbourhood including drugs, alcohol, littering and vandalism.

She said it makes her nervous to go to the park with her young son.

She said even outside the East Village neighbourhood, people know where the notorious drug house is.

"I just don't know how, like, 30 people can know this is a meth lab but nothing has been done,"

Jennie said.

"Why isn't this being settled?" Healey said drug-related calls are passed to 3 District's street crimes unit and officers have investigatory procedures to follow, and in some cases legislative procedures, before any action can be taken, so it could take some time.

A report was to be presented at Tuesday's council meeting by city chief administrative officer Scott Luey regarding implementation of the task force.

The report states staff are concerned there is some duplication in the initiatives proposed by Desmarais for the task force and a strategic plan directive to establish a Healthy Community and Quality of Life Committee.

A recommendation in the report calls for council to refer the concerns of the East Village to the Healthy Community and Quality of Life committee, to be included in its mandate.

Luey said council could vote to either follow that recommendation, create a subdivision of the committee dedicated to the concerns of East Village or create a separate task force, as initially asked for by Desmarais.

franki.delman@postmedia.ca  
Twitter: @frankiemanIN  
BRIEFPort Colborne man  
busted for meth

Three Niagara residents face crystal meth charges stemming from a police investigation into the sale of the drug from a Niagara Falls motel room.

Niagara Regional Police detectives said the room and the people associated to it had been related to previous meth investigations recently conducted by Niagara police.

A search warrant was executed on the room last week. Inside, six people were arrested after a small amount of the drug was found, along with a quantity of cash.

After further investigation, two of the people were released unconditionally. Three people face charges, and one person was arrested on four warrants for his arrest in relation to other unrelated charges in Niagara.

Charged with possession of meth for the purpose of trafficking, possession of proceeds of crime, and breach of recognizance is Carrie Ingram, 32, of Niagara Falls; Jeremy McDelivery, 29, of Port Colborne and Alexander Bradley, 21, of Niagara Falls.

Ingram was awaiting sentencing at the time of this incident on previous meth charges regarding an investigation by police at the same hotel in June 2014.

McDelivery was released on a recognizance for previous meth charges regarding an investigation by police in Welland at the time of this incident. Bradley was released on a recognizance on unrelated charges at the time of this arrest.

Arrested on warrants was Kody Mounsey, 24, of Niagara Falls. Mounsey was wanted on warrants for thefts and failing to appear in court.

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## ■ I'VE BEEN THINKING...

## A connection can be made between church and state

REV. THOMAS P. ARTH

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

I'm not a political junkie. The little I know about Canadian politics is what I get from the occasional newscasts I watch. But I am someone who votes.

I have voted in every election and referendum, municipally, provincially and federally, since I turned 18. As citizens we have a right and an obligation to hold our elected representatives to account, to ask them to be clear about their convictions on important issues, and to make our voices heard about how we feel and what we believe.

There are those who believe that religion and politics should not mix. I do not agree. For people of faith, religious conviction is not or should not be a private matter. Our religious beliefs, our values, principles and moral commitments should inform all that we say and do including casting our ballots.

We hear a lot from the candidates and parties who want our votes. Often what they tell us is what they think we want to hear, what they think will convince us to cast our ballots in their favour. I might sound cynical but only because I think our political system could be so much more. Instead of stepping into the

ballot box with the thought "what's going to be best for me?" what if we were encouraged to actually think about "what's going to be best for all people and for the future of the world?"

Often it seems that religious people, at least a significant segment of Christian people, seem to focus on two main issues when it comes to moral values influencing their vote. Those issues are abortion and marriage equality. Christians are by no means of one mind when it comes to those issues yet they have tended to become the ones that dominate social debate.

But there are other issues that religious convictions and teachings also speak to. I am writing specifically from a Christian position so I can't speak for other religions but I would guess that some of them, perhaps many of them might hold similar positions.

■ God calls us to good environmental stewardship. Canada has quite a poor track record when it comes to our care of creation.

■ Nearly every religion requires truly religious people to care for the poor. Among 34 developed countries in the world 23 have a lower poverty rate than Canada.

■ Our criminal justice system does little to provide healing for communities, for offenders and their victims, and all of society.

Punishment and prison are not the only answer. We need to do more to help offenders reform and become productive citizens.

■ Indigenous peoples in Canada have been mistreated for too long. We need to work more strenuously for their rights and address the issue of murdered and missing Indigenous women in an effective way. We need clear action to address the many issues that Indigenous people deal with.

■ Christians are urged to see the face of God reflected in every human being we encounter. God calls us to extend hospitality to strangers and we must demonstrate an even higher level of mercy and compassion toward refugees forced to flee life-threatening situations.

■ Canada's contribution to international aid has fallen in recent years. The UN target is for nations to contribute 0.7% of gross national income to help with relief and development for the world's poorest nations. Our contribution is now at 0.24%.

■ Violence is never the best answer to any conflict. We have not signed on to an Arms Trade Treaty that all other NATO countries have signed as well as countries like Israel.

An end to the conflict with ISIS in Iraq and Syria will require more than just military intervention. It will also require diplomatic efforts, humanitarian assistance, support for

refugees, and other means to bring an end to the conflict.

■ Canada is home to more than half of the world's mining companies and the projects of some of these companies in other parts of the world are increasingly associated with human rights abuses toward the local people who have little recourse.

Christians are called to love God with all that they are and to love their neighbours as themselves. We follow the one called the Prince of Peace. Throughout our scriptures God's people are called to care for the poor. Care and compassion for the whole world and for all people — no matter how they dress, what their religion may be, what language they speak, who they love, where they come from or where they live — is what we're supposed to be about. Jesus calls the nations to feed the hungry, give the thirsty something to drink, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit those in prison.

My vote next week will be about a lot more than just who is going to put more money in my pocket. It will be about a lot more than one promise or another that might affect my life this year or next. There's always more at stake.

Shipwrecks  
— IamatikosSKIP GILLHAM  
For Postmedia Network

*Iamatikos* was a Great Lakes trader in 1970. The ship had been built at Elderslie, West Germany, and completed in December 1953.

The 94.73-metre-long vessel operated under West German registry and spent its early years on saltwater routes as *Wilhelm Doerenkamp*.

The 4,121-tonne capacity carrier was sold to Greek interests in 1969 and renamed *Iamatikos*. The new owner sent the small ship through the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1970 but it was resold in 1972 and remained under the Greek flag as *Mitera*.

By 1975, the ship was sailing under a fifth name of *Anatoli*. It was lost the



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POSTMEDIA  
NETWORK  
*Iamatikos*  
is pictured  
at Montreal  
in August  
1970 in  
this photo  
by Rene  
Beauchamp.

next year. *Anatoli* had left Leningrad, Russia, for Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and was anchored off the port when it was in a collision with the *Lash Atlantic* on Nov. 28,

1976. The anchored ship was badly damaged and, while initially listed as "semi-submerged," it was noted as having sunk on Dec. 9.

The much larger, 249.9-metre-long, *Lash Atlantic* survived the collision and lasted until being scrapped at Alang, India, following arrival in 1986.

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For further information, contact Greg Fumming.

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **HEALTH:** Free retinal screening

## Eye institute providing assistance to diabetics in Port Colborne

**MICHELLE ALLENBERG**  
Postmedia Network

Hamilton Regional Eye Institute will offer free diabetic retinal screening at Bridges Community Health Centre (BCHC) in Port Colborne.

The institute wants to offer services to people with diabetes who don't have easy access to vision care or cannot afford the screening.

"There are (a lot of people with diabetes), and there

are a lot of people who have challenges paying for the service because it is usually anywhere from \$35 to \$45 to have the imaging done," said Shannon Dugas, diabetes nurse educator at Bridges.

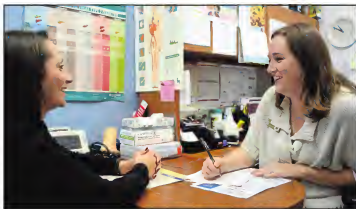
Patients on Nov. 3 will be checked for signs of diabetic retinopathy or glaucoma.

Diabetic retinopathy is a disease that damages blood vessels in the eye, which can increase the risk of going blind. Glaucoma can cause

nerve damage at the back of the eye and can also cause blindness.

People interested in getting a free eye exam are asked to contact their family doctors. Patients will need a referral to Bridges from their doctor. For more information about booking an appointment or to learn more about diabetes contact Bridges at 289-479-5017.

Appointments last about 30 minutes and patients



MICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Shannon Dugas, a diabetes nurse educator, right, talks to co-worker Christina Dupont about Hamilton Regional Eye Institute offering free diabetic retinal screening at Bridges Community Health Centre.

should bring their glasses to the appointment. All the information gathered during the exam will be reviewed

by a certified eye specialist in Hamilton.

During the eye examination people will be provided

with information about diabetic retinopathy.

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## MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

# Port Colborne discusses frozen water services

FRANK IEMAN  
Postmedia Network

Port Colborne City Council held a special meeting last Monday to discuss the frozen water services crisis in the winter of 2015.

Between the months of January and April, the city said they received 261 calls for frozen water services. In a typical season, the city usually receives 20-25 of those calls.

The departments of engineering and operations and corporate and community services brought forward two items for council's consideration — a post-mortem review on the crisis, including policy amendments to be enacted into a bylaw in an upcoming meeting, and a frozen water refund review.

Council started the meeting by

discussing the refund review, and the recommendation by city staff to provide no further refunds to people for frozen services on the home owner's side, for people who can run their water to avoid freezing, for neighbours who provided water to those with frozen services and for the fixed service cost which is charged for water regardless of usage.

Director of corporate and community services Peter Senese spoke to council on the city's recommendation and answered questions regarding the recommendation not to refund residents in these situations.

The report passed in a 3-2 vote. Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenny — who voted against the recommendation — said at council that she was concerned with the plan to provide no

further refunds or credits because the city never had a policy in place previously.

She said that she thinks that people who took suggestions by the city to prevent freezing pipes by running their water, and people who assisted their neighbours by providing water should be compensated for the extra usage.

Senese said staff didn't recommend refunding people for running their taps to prevent freezing because it was a personal choice based on suggestions that it would save them the inconvenience and cost of ending up with frozen pipes. He also said the process of determining who did and did not turn on their taps to prevent freezing would be resource-consuming and unreliable

as there are several other factors that could play into why a home's usage increased.

When it comes to neighbours sharing water, Senese said the city didn't recommend doing that citing public health concerns. He said that if neighbours chose to enter an agreement to share water, it would be up to the neighbours to also determine compensation. The report says the city will assist in providing averages for water usages from prior years so that residents could see how much more water they were using by providing water to others.

A handful of residents spoke to council about their experiences during the winter months and stated their cases on why the city should refund them for additional usage.

Director of engineering and operations Ron Hanson on behalf of the Frozen Water Services Review Committee presented council and the public with the post-mortem report and the policy amendments recommended by staff — policy that will be put into a by-law to be considered at a future meeting of council.

Hanson said the city's biggest downfall during the crisis was their communications of policy and procedures in the event of frozen water services.

He said the winter was an extreme case and that he doesn't know whether they will see another winter like that but that the city has to be prepared if they do.

Staff recommended a communications package which would include information on process and procedure for residents who experience frozen water services this winter.

The report also recommends establishing a list of suggested plumbers to call and a standardized form for plumbers to submit to the city after the call to assist in record-keeping.

Other recommendations that passed in the 4-1 vote were tendering for the lowering of 175 water services on the city side to insulate and protect from freezing, developing a database for storing frozen services information, a dedicated phone line in the event of another crisis situation and not to deliver potable water to homes whose pipes are frozen but to ensure access to potable water at emergency water depots in the event of another crisis.

frank.ieman@summedia.ca  
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- 10:00 am - Dr. Kate Rhéume-Bleue - Stronger Bones and a Healthier Heart
- 11:30 am - Dr. Marita Schauch - Stress and the Disease Connection
- 1:00 pm - Brenda Watson - Cleansing - Be Your Best!
- 2:30 pm - Dr. Zoltan Rona - Supplements for Longevity

Plus there will be demos, discounts, **FREE samples**, health info and gifts from the numerous exhibitors - including local natural health practitioners and natural health suppliers. This is the natural health event of the year! For more information about this event, visit **Rosemary's Natural Choices** or call us at 905-714-0586. Last year's expo was standing room only!

## Feeling a Bit (ahem) Gassy? Probiotics are Very Helpful

Gastrointestinal and digestive problems are an all too common health complaint. Bloating, acid reflux, indigestion, constipation, and diarrhea are not a normal part of your digestive process. Poor digestion symptoms like these may indicate an imbalance in your intestinal microflora that can lead to far more serious health problems.

Do you suffer from... bloating, frequent belching, flatulence, diarrhea or constipation, nausea after eating, cracked/fingerlike skin on your face, iron deficiency, sinusitis, candida, food allergies, eczema, psoriasis plus many other maladies. Each one of these can be attributed to poor digestion or an upset balance of the intestinal flora in your digestive tract.

Your digestive system consists of both good, healthy bacteria and harmful bacteria. When the harmful bacteria dominates the intestinal tract, your digestion suffers, candida yeast grows out of control, and



essential vitamins and enzymes are not produced. Without these, your immune system becomes compromised... and that can lead to an increased risk of disease.

A very effective remedy is to take probiotics regularly. Probiotics boost your immune system and help protect from viruses, fungus, and bacteria, by neutralizing the harmful substances. These good bacteria form a barrier along your intestinal lining, preventing viruses from passing into your bloodstream. These beneficial bacteria also help to neutralize bacteria and viruses before they can make you sick. Looking for a probiotic to improve your health? We recommend **Nutra Probiotic**.

For more information about Nutra-Probiotic, visit **Rosemary's Natural Choices**

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■ **CLOSEUP:** Apple farmers say this year's crop is exceptionally tasty

# From hard work to harvest

FRANKI IKEMAN  
Postmedia Network

The apple harvest is here and local farmers say it's tastier than ever.

The apple season, which started with early varieties mid-August and is now seeing the more popular types come ready, is expected to continue until the end of October.

"We actually have some early apples, so we started harvesting in August. We have some early varieties that are delicious right off the tree," said Kim Duffin of Duffin Farms in Fonthill.

The early varieties might be great freshly picked, but Duffin said they don't keep well — unlike the varieties picked now which will store and be

sold fresh all winter long at the farm's on-property market store.

This year's crop, Duffin said, is juicier and fuller-flavoured than other years. She said however that a small amount of her crop saw some frost damage — an issue she said was worse for farmers that don't plant the same volume of apples per

farm does.

"The quality of the apples is exceptional, the taste is outstanding however the challenge we had this year is we had some frost damage," she said.

"We were fortunate, we have enough planted of everything." To the west of Duffin's Fonthill orchard, another apple farmer — DeVries Fruit Farm

in Fenwick — said they combatted the frost with wind machines.

The machines, which were installed five years ago, help to move warmer air through the orchard, so that frost stays off the plants Dan DeVries said.

DeVries said despite the frost some orchards experienced this season has had ideal weather for apple growing.

"We had just enough heat and just enough rain and everything's just kind of worked out together," DeVries said, adding that the warmer temperatures over the last few weeks have really helped the apple crop flourish.

"This year in particular has been a really unique year for all the crops I think," he said. "The flavour has been fantastic."

Both farmers pick their apples by hand, waiting until the apple is at its ideal ripeness and colour before it leaves the tree.

"We thin by hand so then we do what we call picking because in a tree, just like in nature, everything isn't ready at once, so you have to be able to read the tree and take the apples off the tree (when they're ready)," Duffin said.

"All the apples are hand picked and we're checking the maturity of the apples on a weekly basis," DeVries said.

Checking the apples' maturity is mostly done, he said, with his taste buds.

"If their flavour's at what we think they should be at, then we pick them. A lot of it's looking at colour too," he said.

The apple season typically lasts until late October or early November.

"Sometimes we're actually picking apples when the snow flies. We've been known to pick spy apples when it's been trickling snowflakes. But usually the end of October, the first week of November sometimes," Duffin said.

And while the season for fresh apples may only last a couple of months for most people, the farm work doesn't end when the last apple falls to the ground.

Winter months are spent pruning and tending to the orchards to ensure a successful harvest the following fall.

Niagara — known for its tender fruit and grape growing — doesn't have a large number of apple growers, said Kelly Ciceran, general manager of the Ontario Apple Growers.

"I think because it's such an amazing location or spot for the tender fruit and the grape industry," Ciceran said.

That's not to say that it's not a great spot for apple growing alone, she said, as apples do best when surrounded by large bod-

## APPLE A DAY HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Apples are high in Pectin, which is a soluble fiber.

They are full of flavonoids — compounds that provide fruit and vegetables with a colourful pigment.

Research indicates that flavonoids help reduce the risk of heart disease, cancer, stroke, asthma and Type-2 diabetes.

Apples may also reduce the risk of neuro-degenerative diseases, like Alzheimer's disease, high cholesterol and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Apples are a source of Vitamin C and Iron.

ies of water, such as the Great Lakes.

She said the province in general is great for growing apples.

"Ontario has a great climate for growing apples," she said.

She added that a lot of the Niagara growers are very diverse, growing not only apples but other tender fruits and produce also.

Apples that are coming off the trees now include Royal Gala, Spartan, McIntosh, Empire and some Honey Crisps.

DeVries Fruit Farms sells their produce at the St. Catharines, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne and Fonthill farmers' markets as well as at their farm on Canboro Rd. in Fenwick.

Duffin Farms sells their products at their farm store on Rice Rd. in Fonthill.

DeVries said people should take advantage of the local apples — and buy from local farmers.

"There's lots of farms in the area. Just get out on the road and drive around and try to support as many local farms as possible."

## FAST FACTS

There are close to 20 different types of apples grown on 16,000 acres in Ontario.

Top five varieties are McIntosh, Empire, Northern Spy, Red Delicious, and Gala.

The Gala apple is the number one seller in Ontario.

It takes four apples to make one glass of pure apple juice.

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## SUV collides with recycling truck



GREG PARMINDER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

An SUV sustained most damage in a collision with a recycling truck in rural east Port Colborne last Friday morning. Only minor damage was visible on the truck, which was collecting between Staith and Brookfield roads on Forkes Road East when the crash occurred at about 8:30 a.m. Niagara Regional Police said a 35-year-old Port Colborne woman was driving the Honda CRV and a Niagara Falls resident was operating the truck. No serious injuries were reported.



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## ■ CANADA VOTES 2015

# Niagara Centre riding candidate Q&A

Postmedia Network sat down with Niagara Centre candidates from the major parties to talk about election issues.

Here are some of the responses, edited for length, from New Democratic Party incumbent Malcolm Allen, Liberal candidate Vance Bada-

way, Green candidate David Clow and Conservative candidate Leanne Villella.

**■ The candidates were asked on jobs:**  
Niagara's job front continues to recover from the 2009 recession, but while unemployment is down there is a question about the qual-

ity of the jobs available, with many people working multiple low-paying jobs to make ends meet. What would your government do to help create better jobs?

**■ On recreational canal investment:**  
The Welland recreational canal has been described as

offering some of the best conditions in the world for flatwater sports, although it is limited by its width. Would you support further investment in the waterway to help it reach its full potential as an international venue for flatwater sports?

## MALCOLM ALLEN NDP

**■ Jobs:** What we've talked about is an innovation fund that would be used to spur investment and job creation that would actually be in the manufacturing sector which has better paying jobs, as we all know. But the innovation fund would only pay if you create jobs. In other words you're not going to get a tax break or reduction in your taxes or what you have to pay unless you create jobs. So you create jobs, you get the money. You don't create jobs, you get nothing.

**■ Recreational canal investment:**

I think it has lots of potential, but I think we need to sit down and talk about where it goes. At the moment the city has some discussions that it wants to undertake with the Welland Recreational Canal Corp. I think that needs to get out of the way first and then I'd be more than happy to sit down with mayor and council and those who are on the board and decide what are we going to do going forward and what are the needs and what does the community want. If the community and the city want to see investment, I'd be happy to push it forward on their behalf.



MALCOLM ALLEN

## VANCE BADAWEY Liberal Party

**■ Jobs:** What I'm trying to do with the toolbox that's been handed to me by the Liberal Party is in fact explain to folks around the riding how we're

going to do it.

As mayor for 14 years and regional councillor, I was fortunate to lead a team to put in place an economic

strategy for the region. That strategy included a lot of economic incentives locally as well as regionally to help hiring and make it more appealing for business to locate in the Niagara Region. One of the reasons I'm running at the federal level is to compound those strategies that we put in place. For example ... to cut red tape, bring the tax down for small, medium and large industry, to create a foreign trade zone here in the Niagara Region to give the manufacturing sector an incentive to come back and create the jobs that we once had.

**■ Recreational canal investment:**

The WRCC does really contribute to the overall economy of not just Welland, but the entire region of Niagara. It brings dollars into especially the retail sector, it brings people here, introduces them to the area as part of a marketing feature so people can get a taste of what Niagara has to offer, and it gives them the opportunity to come back later on to take advantage of other things that people might be interested in coming to ...

The WRCC is a jewel that's a diamond in the rough right now, but it can be polished to be something a lot more for future generations. It can be a destination for recreational waterway activities. There can be a lot more investment on the shores of the recreational canal.

Continued on next page



VANCE BADAWEY

## Federal election day is Monday



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## CANADA VOTES 2015

## Niagara Centre riding candidate Q&amp;A

From previous page

## DAVID CLOW

## Green Party

## Jobs:

Jobs right now in this community are very precarious ones. It's a situation where people are forced into the positions they're in because they have to pay bills. This is why I'm pressing the other candidates to really come forward with what their ideas are.

Malcolm Allen spoke about the brownfields. At the same time he told us he was going to move in to the riding, but neither of those things happened. We didn't get brownfields resolved, he didn't move into the riding.... These factories all around us are empty. We know. We see it. We go by and we see these fenced properties and there's garbage everywhere and broken bottles and we wonder why it is like that.... We can go to the federal government right now, which is what Malcolm Allen told us he was going to do, and we can demand the funds right now to remediate these lands.... That creates immediate long term sustainable and maintainable jobs.... If it's not sustainable, then by definition it will fail.

Recreational canal investment. We need to have town hall meetings about this. We don't need to have closed doors. We don't need things resulting in lawsuits. We

need to make sure that this community is speaking to these issues....

I'm not going to be accepting a salary if I get elected to this position. I'm going to be spending those funds on the community. One of the first things I'd like to do, and I brought it to the mayor to try to make it happen, is we need a tow-line here for wake-boarding in the canal.

LEANNA VILLELLA  
Conservative  
Party

## Jobs:

What we're doing, and I think it's very important, is we're supporting small businesses.

We recognize that small business is the backbone of our economy and by cutting small business taxes, that's what's going to heal the economy. Corporate tax revenue is actually rising because of our competitive tax revenues and it attracts investment into this area.

## Recreational canal investment:

I respect the hard work that's been done to get the waterway to the stage that's at today.

The city has decided to concentrate on sports tourism, and in doing so we now have a world-class flatwater facility.

We should be proud of the events that were held there this past summer. We have to

remember that the WIFC is a long term plan and we just had our first full summer. I know that a large number of people saw Welland in a very positive light, so I want to commend everyone that was involved in that, including all of the volunteers.

Two factors are involved here, lengthening and widening of the waterway. But I'll speak more about the widening because the lengthening is a bit excessive and adventurous on our part. The south Niagara crossing course absolutely needs

to be widened from six lanes to seven lanes, and that's to accommodate international Olympic level events. And the north course also needs to be widened to accommodate a return lane as it should be a very separate lane....

But money fixes everything that's for sure, and I want the people of Welland to know that I strongly support further investment in the waterway to ensure that we reach our full potential as a sports tourism destination.



DAVID CLOW



LEANNA VILLELLA

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### ■ WELLAND CANAL

# Ship-bridge collision probe likely to span months

**GREG FURMINGER**  
Postmedia Network

An investigation into what led to the Welland Canal bridge-ship crash last month in Port Colborne could span months, says a spokesman for the seaway.

"The investigation is ongoing and it will take some time," Andrew Bogora of St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp. said last Thursday. "It may be a question of months."

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada, which plays a role in highway and shipping lane investigations, is participating in the review of what happened at Bridge 19 on Sept. 30.

A spokesperson for TSB did not immediately reply Thursday to a request for an update.

Both the bridge and the 8,388-tonne cargo ship *Lena J*, from the Caribbean

island of Antigua and Barbuda, were damaged in the crash.

Montreal-based Gresco Ltd., the Canadian shipping agent for the *Lena J*, referred questions about damage to the ship back to the seaway authority Thursday.

Without having an engineer's analysis, the seaway authority's Bogora could not specifically say what the damage to the Port Colborne bridge entails, but it is "extensive enough" to warrant its continued closure to vehicle traffic.

Visible damage includes a bent steel girder.

The bridge is expected to be closed for months. It can still be lowered and raised to accommodate emergency vehicles and can be used by pedestrians.



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■ GOFUNDME

# Eight weeks too soon

GREG FURMINER  
Postmedia Network

It's a touching photo that shows we Parker clenching the finger of his dad. And it's one that symbolizes a baby holding on for dear life.

Welland parents Derek Moore and fiancée Jennifer Rodgers know to expect complications when Parker James Ryan was to arrive late next month.

They just weren't expecting him to be born so soon.

Four pounds 10 ounces. His weight dropped, as it does for all babies right after birth, to a low of four pounds four ounces.

Parker has remained at McMaster Children's Hospital in Hamilton since the day after he was delivered by emergency C-section at St. Catharines hospital on Sept. 26.

Mom had just said goodbye to the last of the guests who had turned out for the third birthday of her son Jayden.

Trouble started moments later. Blood was coming from Mom. The ambulance arrived.

Derek sat watch with Jayden until he got the call from the hospital. He better get there quick and scrub up.

Parker was coming. He was born at 31 weeks six days, one day shy of eight weeks too soon.

He was born 10:56 p.m. He was "flat-lined."

Twenty-four-year-old Jennifer had never to hospital a number of times before for the troubled pregnancy and knew there could be problems, but this wasn't expected.

For Parker's first seven hours he was under critical care by Niagara doctors and, seemingly from out of nowhere, Derek recalls, a crew from McMaster.

Parker was subsequently put on a ventilator. Delivered 100 per cent oxygen. Administered pain killers. Given several blood transfusions. Kept in an incubator. He was at a trying time for the tiny baby and his parents. And family and friends.

Parker has remained at the Hamilton hospital since Sept. 27.

Says Derek on Oct. 9, "I don't even know how long that's been because it's such a blur."

Mom's healthy diet and lifestyle is credited with Parker being a good size at the time of his delivery.

Still, the condition of placenta previa made for the crisis in which he found himself. Parker's placenta — it provides oxygen and nutrients and removes waste products from a baby's blood — was precariously below him.

Since the emergency delivery is still considered to be in critical condition.

But Dad says Parker is showing "incredible progress." He's breathing now with a CPAP machine — continuous positive airway pressure — at 21 per cent of the air that those keeping watch over him are breathing.

Without the aid of the machine, "It's scary, he basically just starts choking," Dad says.

## HOW TO HELP

Parker's Path  
gofundme.com/xv5p2tc

But, another good sign, Parker's feed intake is increasing. Friday he was up to four pounds seven ounces.

"Every day we take a couple pictures of him to timeline it," Derek says of his son's progress.

The one that shows Parker clenching Dad's finger speaks volumes.

"It's one of those photos that can break you down in an instant."

Big brother Jayden has spent most of his time with grandparents and other family members since Parker was born.

The three-year-old has been up to hospital, but not allowed to close up the brother who now shares his hints date.

"He's handling it pretty well."

As for Derek and Jennifer, they've found tremendous support from everyone around them.

"It's overwhelming," Derek says by phone from Ronald McDonald House, while the love of his life is taking time out for herself.

"I've never been in a position like this my entire life," says the first dad at age 28. "A loss of words to describe all his emotions."

"The support of the McMaster staff, the nurses, it's been second to none, even in terms of taking care of Mom and Dad."

The same is true, Derek adds, for the people at Ronald McDonald House, where Mom and Dad have stayed just a block away from hospital.

"I've never really understood what these (RMH) places are, but I do now," he says.

"Everybody here is not living in a fairy tale."

He says it's the common bond of having a child in medical distress that unites the parents there. They rely on each other. They understand. They can offer comforting words.

"Those things keep you held together."

For added support, an online GoFundMe account — Parker's Path — has been set up to help the family as bank accounts run dry.

Donations will help the family with the expenses, and lost income.

Derek is a driver employed by RC Delivery, owned by his parents. Jennifer is a dental assistant at the Besma Family Dental Centre at the corner of Lincoln Street and Riverside Drive.

The couple had been planning for a July 2016 wedding.

"With everything we're going through with this, we've put it on the back-burner," Derek says.

For now, Parker is their No. 1 priority, and his arrival home.

Derek says that won't be until at least Nov. 22, the day he was to be born.

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## ■ HAUNT MANOR

# Don Jail cells add eerie touch to haunt

JOHN LAW  
Postmedia Network

It'll be a different kind of bar scene at Haunt Manor this year.

For its sixth year, the annual Niagara Falls frightfest is adding some real-life horror with sections of Ontario's infamous Don Jail. The doors and caging, many with markings and names scrawled by actual prisoners, are part of an elaborate new section to the massive Halloween attraction on Lundy's Lane.

Owner Phil Van Kleef says he was contacted by the prison, which closed in 2013. Knowing the jail's notorious history, he eagerly scooped up more

than 10 tonnes of the steel caging.

"The guy told me that these were the cells that the last hangings in Canada took place in," he says.

Opened in 1864 in Toronto's east end, the facility earned a dark reputation over the years, prompting one judge to credit inmates three days against their sentence for every day served before trial.

It's estimated 34 men were executed at the prison before capital punishment was abolished in 1976. The last two hangings were carried out in 1962.

"Definitely had people were in here," says Van Kleef. "A lot of people say the energy in this building is intense. It's one of

the scariest attractions we have now."

Two royal commissions concluded the jail was dangerously overcrowded and understaffed, creating a violent, volatile atmosphere which affected inmates and guards alike. A new section was opened in 1958, but it too suffered from unsanitary conditions and overpopulation.

The original jailed closed in 1977, but the east wing extension remained open until 2013 when it was decommissioned and prisoners transferred to the new Toronto South Detention Centre in Etobicoke. It was torn down last spring.

The east wing was built to contain 276 prisoners. Near the end it was holding 620.

"The misery can be felt in the jail doors, with chipping paint barely hiding the cold, grey steel. Van Kleef left the jail remnants as is, and built a large wooden attraction around them called Escape from Miller's Penitentiary. Like everything at Haunt Manor, it will have live actors in costume to torment visitors as they wind their way through the dark.

It's part of a 250,000-square-foot attraction that includes 50 staff, six separate buildings, a corn field and a hay ride. It takes about 90 minutes to complete, and crowds were already lined up for opening night Oct. 2.

Every year offers a different experience, he adds.

"As long as you recreate your

show, people come back."

Every year it takes up more space at Campark Resorts, owned by Van Kleef's dad, Peter. He invested about \$150,000 the first year, and has put in more than \$500,000 since. It led *Fangoria* Magazine to proclaim it "Canada's most terrifying haunted attraction" last year.

Staff member Adam Martin is so into it, he custom-made his own \$1,500 scarecrow suit for this year. The horror buff loves making even the toughest looking customers scream.

"I'm very serious about this."

But while the goal is to scare people, Van Kleef wants people to leave laughing.

"The thing is, at the end of

**WHAT:** Haunt Manor  
**WHERE:** Campark Resorts, 9357 Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls

**WHEN:** Friday & Saturday 7 to 11 p.m.; Sunday 7 to 10 p.m. Continues to Nov. 1

**TICKETS:** \$35 www.hauntmanor.com

the day everyone's got a smile on their face as they walk out to the parking lot. It's not a place where our end game is people crying in their cars.

"That's why all our actors return every year. It's a fun activity."

But as Martin found out last year, it's not without risk.

"It's fight or flight with people," he says. "Last year, my first scare, some lady punched me in the face."

john.law@sunmedia.ca



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■ **POLICE BOARD:** Committee chair says he took online questionnaire 22 times

## And police survey says ... still controversial

**BILL SAWCHUK**  
Postmedia Network

The Niagara Regional Police services board's online public opinion survey is finished, but there is no end to the controversy.

Carmen D'Angelo, who heads the consulting firm hired to do the survey, presented the board's business committee with the results last Thursday.

And then things got strange. D'Angelo was detailing his efforts for checking respondents' IP addresses to ensure they didn't take the survey more than once when board member and business committee chair Vaughn Stewart noted he took the survey 22 times.

He asked D'Angelo if he could provide a list of the IP

addresses.

"If you weeded out my responses, it would give me confidence in your work," Stewart said.

Police Chief Jeff McGuire then began with questions and comments for D'Angelo, which didn't sit well with board members Andy Petrovski and David Barrick.

Petrovski interrupted the chief on a point of order, saying McGuire shouldn't be making comments on the survey. That was a right reserved for police board members, he said.

Stewart ruled against Petrovski, pointing out Petrovski had already commented on the survey. Petrovski opened by telling D'Angelo he had hit a "home

run" with his work.

Stewart said he would afford the chief the same opportunity to speak.

Petrovski challenged the chief's decision, but his challenge was defeated in a vote of committee members.

The chief continued his line of questioning, asking D'Angelo why he left out certain services from a chart on the cost of policing.

This time, it was Barrick's turn to interrupt the chief.

Barrick wondered how the chief's questions "aligned with previous board motions and directions about the survey."

At that point, the chief let everyone off the hook.

"We can end this now," McGuire said. "I was asking

some questions about a document that was presented to the public. We were told yesterday it was going to be presented in camera. We arrived today and found otherwise."

"This was the first opportunity for the service to see the results, ask some questions and make some comments. I am prepared to stop if you want to move in camera."

The board quickly voted to move into private session.

The survey is part of a provincially mandated three-year business plan for the Niagara Regional Police. However, it has been dogged by controversy.

The project was awarded untendered to DPM Consulting, a company run by D'Angelo, who is also the chief

administrative officer for the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. The NPCA employs police board member Barrick as its director of operations.

Barrick has reiterated he did not take part in the vote that selected D'Angelo's firm.

Cliff Priest, president of the Niagara Region Police Association, which represents Niagara's frontline officers, was quick to criticize the survey after the board launched it.

Priest called the framing of some of the questions "ludicrous." He also said some of the questions appear to have been crafted to elicit certain answers.

Lost in all this were the results presented last Thursday.

D'Angelo said a total of 2,089 members of the public responded, more than the 1,000 for which they were looking.

The majority, 74.5 per cent, think the police are

doing a good job. Women had higher levels of satisfaction (77.2 per cent) as did citizens from larger municipalities (76.7 per cent).

All groups — seniors, young adults, large population areas, small population areas, men and women — perceived drug-related crime at Niagara's highest level.

The survey found the community polled on the issue of carding — where officers stop people not suspected of a crime and ask to see their identification, then record the information — with 42.4 per cent in favour of the practice and 49.5 per cent against it.

"I think the survey worked out well," D'Angelo said. "There are always going to be differences of opinion when you do a survey."

"There is anxiety in the service about how the public views the service. I get that, but the conversation should be about what the survey tells them."

### ■ ACCOLADES



**HANDOUT/  
POSTMEDIA NETWORK**  
Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire, centre, is pictured with his Award of Tolerance. Also shown are Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies directors Nir and Leslie Orbach.

## NRP chief honoured by Holocaust centre

Postmedia Network

The chief of Niagara Regional Police is being saluted by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

Jeff McGuire was presented the Award of Tolerance at the recent PSWC state of the union dinner in Toronto.

The award honour police officers who have most exemplified the values of equality, justice and human rights.

Last year, through the Tour for Humanity, McGuire presented Holocaust survivor Max Eisen to a Welland audience at Niagara College following his tour of concentration camps and death camps in the Czech Republic and Poland.

The tour's goal is to educate people on the importance of acceptance and tolerance in society. To police, it reinforces the obligation of officers to deliver police in a bias-free manner, said a news release issued by the NRP.

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# The Sinatra side of Robert Davi

## JOHN LAW

Postmedia Network

Robert Davi knows how it looks: The movie tough guy stepping on stage to try a few songs. Another actor who thinks he can sing.

That's where he interrupts you. He may have more than 130 movies under his belt, but he also has classical training as a singer. He has concerns around the world. He has no less than legendary producer Quincy Jones raving over his interpretation of Frank Sinatra: "I have never heard anyone come this close to Sinatra's sound and still be himself."

He may be the bad guy in a lot of movies, but to a growing new fanbase, Davi is a silky smooth

crooner.

"(It's difficult) for some actors, I believe so," he says on the line from New York, where he's performing for the United Nations. "Not for me, after they hear the first song, I'm different than all the other guys doing it, sorry."

"I respect them all [but] it's a different colour. The difference is, I had a huge musical background as a kid growing up."

Assumptions come with the territory for Davi, and he loves side-stepping them. His scary persona in so many movies — the Bond villain in *Licence to Kill*, one of the fearsome Fratelli brothers in *The Goonies* — may lead you to think you'll hear the same Sinatra songs you've heard in countless mob

movies. But Davi prides himself on finding new shades to Sinatra's music, putting his own imprint on some of the most romantic tunes ever recorded.

Playing three nights at Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort Oct. 21 to 23, Davi approaches the Sinatra catalogue as music which made the world fall in love with the United States.

"Sinatra was a combination of being the tough guy and the poet, the romantic," he says. "The Great American Songbook is the Shakespeare of America. It's the Golden Age of American music."

Born in Queens, N.Y., to an Italian American mom and a dad from Torella, Sicily, Davi made his film debut alongside Sinatra in

the 1977 made-for-TV movie *Contract on Cherry Street*, which was Sinatra's return to acting after seven years. From there, his intimidating look and voice cast him as the Italian heavy on TV (*Charlie's Angels*, *Wiseguy*) and several movies (Raw Deal, Action Jackson, City Heat).

As the opera-loving Jake Fratelli in 1980's *The Goonies*, Davi indulged the funny side of his image. The movie became a cult favourite, and actually brought Davi to the Niagara Falls Comic Con in June for a mini-Goonies reunion with co-stars Sean Astin and Joe Pantoliano.

In recent years Davi has directed *The Dukes*, about a group of musicians who attempt to rob a bank, and played a Gambino crime family captain in *The Ice-man*. But even as the movies kept coming, he found time to finally let his music breathe. He earned instant cred when his 2011 album *Davi Sings Sinatra*: On the Road to Romance hit No. 6 on Billboard's jazz chart.

"The music to me... is the closest to the absolute. It provides that connection and communion with the audience that films (do not). They don't have that immediacy."

From the start, he planned to satisfy his love for film before veering back towards music.

"I don't know if that was the right choice or wrong choice, it's just what it is," he says. "In some ways I wish I had continued on (with music) earlier on, you know."

## JOHN LAW

Postmedia Network

There isn't a downtown across Canada theatre director Lisa Marie Diliberto isn't enamored with.

It's where people gathered, where memories were made. And often what people point to when discussing the 'good old days'. That powerful nostalgia was the inspiration for *First Point's The Tale of a Town*, a traveling theatre series collecting stories about our main streets.

The show is different in every town, but the effect is the same: A stirring reminder of the past, with a nudge towards the future.

It's now playing in St. Catharines as the first show commissioned by the new FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, in collaboration with Sultair Centre Point Theatre Company.

"We're looking back, and as we look back we realize we need to continue to create those memorable moments and experiences together in our downtown," she says.

Framing these memories is a story about a newsroom launching the first edition of *The New Old Standard*. The paper is doing a retrospective on downtown St. Catharines, and turns to former *Standard* staff including Denis Cahill and Doug Herod for stories.

Local institutions like Jerry's Alley and Art's Restaurant are revisited, along

WHO: Robert Davi

WHERE: Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort

WHEN: Oct. 21 & 22 - 8:30 p.m.;

Oct. 23 - 9 p.m.

TICKETS: Start at \$30

www.ticketmaster.ca

"The music now has taken on a little bit more precedence. I've turned down more acting jobs because I'm committed to the singing. Those things are booked months ahead of time, and if a film comes up and it's going to conflict, I say, 'Well, screw it! I want to do the singing.'"

One thing Davi doesn't tolerate, however: Calling his show a "Sinatra tribute."

"You say that, and right away you get into bad water," he says. "There are guys doing that kind of stuff, but it's not what I do."

"A lot of them run around the country with Sinatra's charts, mimicking (him). What I provide is... have you never seen him alive, the authenticity of Sinatra, what would that experience be? But having your own individual style and personality."

And lest you underestimate the importance of *Off Blue Eyes* on a young Davi, consider his upbringing: "In an Italian household there are two figures — The Pope and Sinatra, and not necessarily in that order."

john.law@summedia.ca

## Nostalgic show revisits old downtowns



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WHAT: The Tale of a Town

WHERE: Odd Fellows Hall, 36 James Street, St. Catharines

WHEN: Oct. 13 to 23

TICKETS: \$20 plus HST. www.

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with many familiar faces — some who are deceased since their interviews.

"The protagonist says he wants to go back to the way things used to be," says Diliberto. "So he goes back and asks everyone in the newsroom that he hires to... go back to the old way of doing things."

"Through the play you discover in the end there are so many great things going on right now in St. Catharines that we don't need to just keep looking back."

The stories have been gathered since 2011, when Toronto-based First Point developed the show for the In the Soil Festival. A national *Tale of the Town* tour launched last year in collaboration with the National Arts Centre.

Diliberto says the show is especially relevant for St. Catharines as it prepares to open its Performing Arts Centre downtown.

"It's changed so much since we came in 2011," she says. "I mean, the PAC was just a dream then."



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# Blues fest shuffles back to Thorold

JOHN LAW

Postmedia Network

Every October, Thorold gets the blues.

Now the region's largest music festival, The Canal Bank Shuffle returns Thursday, Oct. 15, bringing 32 artists and 37 separate shows to eight venues in

the town's downtown core. For an event already at the breaking point last year, promoter Bob Liddycot says it has somehow gotten bigger.

"We didn't think it was going to, but it did," he says with a chuckle. "We were lucky in that we got The Moose & Goose back on board

this year. That's one of the biggest venues in Thorold."

"It holds quite a few (people), so it's really relieved some of the pressure."

It may be bursting at the seams, but organizers refuse to expand the blues bash outside of Thorold. Previous attempts didn't work,

says Liddycot, and it just confirmed a huge part of Canal Bank's appeal is Thorold itself. For four days, some of the top blues artists from across Canada and the U.S. descend on the tiny city of 18,000 people for a unique pub crawl. You can walk out of one show and immediately find another. Performers who can't draw crowds in Buffalo or Toronto play to packed houses in Thorold, thanks to the festival's growing reputation.

"We bring people to town that would never normally visit a venue in Thorold," says Liddycot.

Along with returning favorites The Red Dirt Revelators and Jack de Keyser will be the festival debut of southern blues great Johnny Rawls and St. Louis guitarist Jeremiah Johnson.

Since playing last year's festival, the high energy Ghost Town Blues Band out of Memphis has become one of the hottest touring blues groups in North America.

"Since the Shuffle has adopted us into their family, we've played more than 15 Canadian festivals," said frontman Matt Isbell. "We are very honoured and hum-

WHAT: Canal Bank Shuffle

WHERE: Thorold

WHEN: Thursday to Sunday

TICKETS: \$25 advance, \$30 at the door. [www.canalbankshuffle.com](http://www.canalbankshuffle.com)

bled to have made so many great new fans and friends so far from home."

The festival began in 2002 with 12 Canadian acts. It has since made Thorold and the rest of Niagara an unlikely blues hot spot.

"The Toronto artists especially love us," says Liddycot. "They're having a hard time getting gigs in Toronto, and they're coming down here and getting two or three. We had a lot to do with that."

As always, a hefty chunk of the event's proceeds will go to charity; this year's primary recipient being Community Care. Since the festival began it has given more than \$165,000 to local organizations.

The event also has a title sponsor for the first time, The Pen Centre.

[john.law@sunmedia.ca](mailto:john.law@sunmedia.ca)



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THE TRIBUNE

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We ask that readers submit a photo with name and the service they were a member of. Please drop off or email information to: The Tribune, 228 East Main St., Welland, ON L3B 9P5. Hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm. Email your photo and information to: [trevor.beattie@sunmedia.ca](mailto:trevor.beattie@sunmedia.ca). Deadline for submissions is Monday, October 19th, 2015.



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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **CANALSIDE PLAYERS:** Norm Foster's The Great Kooshog Lake Hollis McCauley Fishing Derby

## Fish-out-of-water tale luring theatregoers



Dina Senior as Rhonda Borkowski, Bradley Doyle as James Bell and Jasmine Milley as Melanie Morningstar star in Welland's Canalside Players production of Norm Foster's *The Great Kooshog Lake Hollis McCauley Fishing Derby*, which has its opening night Friday.

GREG FURMINGER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

**The Great Kooshog Lake Hollis McCauley Fishing Derby**  
Canalside Players  
Welland Community Wellness Complex  
145 Lincoln St.  
Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24 at 8 p.m.  
Oct. 19 at 2 p.m.  
\$15 for wellness complex members, or \$17 general admission at the door, or call 905-735-1700 ext. 4000

**GREG FURMINGER**  
Postmedia Network

Canalside Players is expecting to reel in big audiences with its third stage production of a new Norm Foster play.

Opening night for *The Great Kooshog Lake Hollis McCauley Fishing Derby* is Friday.

"It was written in 2013, so it's very modern," says Dina Senior of the comedy/drama about an investment banker heading for a big city conference, but who instead finds himself stranded with car trouble in a small town that's getting ready for its big fishing derby.

Senior describes the show as being accentuated by clever wordplay, rather than relying on in-your-face pratfalls for laughs.

There's romance, broken hearts and even a larger-than-life aquatic creature.

"The audience can expect a fish-out-of-water story of people trying to discover themselves, set in a northern town," adds Bradley Doyle, who has been working with Senior on stage for the past five years.

Senior, who's producer of the show, plays the flirtatious and overbearing Rhonda Borkowski, the woman who works at the local post office and has come to be known as the "post mistress."

Doyle plays the marooned banker James Bell.

All together a cast and crew of about 14 people have been working on the production since August, meeting three times a week until just recently, when their schedules went nightly.

"It's a very character-driven play, so (the actors) have had to do a lot of work on their character development," says director Lee Moffatt, who runs the Class Act Studio on King Street, where most of the rehearsals have been conducted.

Also part of the five-member cast is Jasmine Milley. She plays the sweet Melanie Morningstar.

"This is her debut," Moffatt says of stage newcomer Milley. "Wait 'til you see her."

"I've done some behind-the-scenes stuff and that's where I'm comfortable," Milley says, at this point not too sure that the acting bug has bitten her yet.

Set design, primarily comprising a front porch and a dock, was wrapping up Saturday in the Welland Community Wellness Complex theatre on Lincoln St., where the play will run for two weeks.

*The Great Kooshog Lake Hollis McCauley Fishing Derby* is the third show put on by Canalside Players, which has also brought audiences *Who's Under Where?* by Marcia Kash and Douglas Hughes and, most recently, Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*.

Senior says advance ticket sales are "way up" over the last production's numbers, possibly because this is a new play by one of Canada's heavyweight writers.

"No one's seen this one—that's awesome," says Moffatt.

"You could even call it the Niagara premiere."

greg.furminger@postmedia.ca  
Twitter: @GregJTheRb



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